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The Semantics of Nominals

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- 7-11 **Espinal, M. Teresa** (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Departament de Filologia Catalana); **McNally, Louise** (Universitat Pompeu Fabra. Departament de Traducció i Filologia)
The Semantics of Nominals. *Catalan Journal of Linguistics*, 2004, vol. 3, pp. 7-11.

Articles

- 15-43 **Espinal, M. Teresa** (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Departament de Filologia Catalana)
Lexicalization of Light Verb Structures and the Semantics of Nouns. *Catalan Journal of Linguistics*, 2004, vol. 3, pp. 15-43.

In this study I shall focus on two Romance idiomatic patterns and the semantics of nouns. It is shown that idioms, in addition to having distinct basic argument structure representations, are formed in syntax by various instantiations of Merge. It is argued that there is a lexicalization pattern reflecting semantic conflation (Talmy 1985, 2000) between cause and degree. This pattern, in syntactic terms, is the output of subsequent Merge operations (Chomsky 1995) between the object noun of a monadic argument structure, an indefinite quantifier and an adjunct phrase. The study of this lexicalization pattern is of interest with regard to the semantics of bare nouns, especially of bare count singular nouns in object position; it is proved that bare nouns are interpreted as properties, and, because of this, they permit quantification over degrees. By contrast, there is a second lexicalization pattern starting from a composite argument structure which licenses an individual—or a kind—denoting reading for the DP object.

Key words: syntax, semantics, idioms, lexicalization patterns, bare nouns.

- 45-73 **Farkas, Donka F.** (University of California, Santa Cruz. Department of Linguistics); **Swart, Henriëtte de** (Utrecht University. Department of French/UiL-OTS)
Incorporation, Plurality, and the Incorporation of Plurals: a Dynamic Approach. *Catalan Journal of Linguistics*, 2004, vol. 3, pp. 45-73.

This paper deals with the semantic properties of incorporated nominals that are present at clausal syntax. Such nominals exhibit a complex cluster of semantic properties, ranging from argument structure, scope, and number to discourse

transparency. We develop an analysis of incorporation in the framework of Discourse Representation Theory, a dynamic theory that can connect sentence-level and discourse-level semantics. We concentrate on data from Hungarian, where incorporated nominals may be either morphologically singular or plural. We set out to capture two sets of contrasts: (i) those we find when comparing incorporated nominals on the one hand and their non-incorporated, full-fledged argument sisters on the other, and (ii) those we find when comparing morphologically singular and morphologically plural incorporated nominals. A more elaborate version of the analysis can be found in Farkas and de Swart (2003).

Key words: semantics, nominals, incorporation, scope, plural, discourse.

- 75-114 **Leonetti, Manuel** (Universidad de Alcalá. Departamento de Filología) Specificity and Differential Object Marking in Spanish. *Catalan Journal of Linguistics*, 2004, vol. 3, pp. 75-114.

The use of the preposition *a* with direct objects in Spanish is a well known instance of the general phenomenon of Differential Object Marking (DOM). In Spanish grammars the insertion of *a* is usually presented as dependent on two basic factors: animacy and referentiality/specificity. The correlation between the object marker and specificity is not systematic, basically because animacy—and not specificity—is the dominant trigger for DOM in Spanish, but a number of facts still indicate that the presence of *a* tends to be associated with specific readings. In order to account for these facts without positing any [+specific] feature in the linguistic meaning of *a*, I try to show that it contributes to utterance interpretation as an internal topic marker. This seems to be the simplest way to derive “specificity effects”, and to account for the crosslinguistic similarities between DOM and other grammatical phenomena (topicalization, clitic doubling, scrambling).

Key words: specificity, animacy, topicality, object marking, inference.

- 115-133 **McNally, Louise** (Universitat Pompeu Fabra. Departament de Traducció i Filologia) Bare Plurals in Spanish are Interpreted as Properties. *Catalan Journal of Linguistics*, 2004, vol. 3, pp. 115-133.

In this paper, I argue that bare plural noun phrases in Spanish unambiguously denote properties of individuals. I begin by using evidence from their incompatibility with kind-level predicates to show that Spanish bare plurals do not denote kinds. I then point to crucial ways in which their interaction with quantifiers is unlike that of other indefinite NPs (specifically, they have obligatory narrowest scope and cannot contribute the main restriction on a quantifier), and I conclude that bare plurals must therefore have a different semantics from other indefinites. I present a formal semantic analysis which allows for any verbal predicate in Spanish to combine with a property-type noun phrase, showing how this analysis can also account for certain facts involving discourse anaphora to bare plurals. Finally, I discuss the advantages of the proposed analysis over those which try to maintain a uniform semantics for bare plurals and indefinites and indicate some of the general implications of the proposal.

Key words: semantics, properties, bare nominals, incorporation.

- 135-146 **Ojeda, Almerindo E.** (University of California, Davis. Linguistics Department)
Functional Entities —and that aint't the half of it!. *Catalan Journal of Linguistics*, 2004, vol. 3, pp. 135-146.

Like many other languages, Spanish may specify fractionary nouns with definite articles (cf. *la mitad*). This fact seems to violate the presupposition of uniqueness generally assigned to the definite article, as no fraction may exist without another one (halves, in particular, come in pairs). But this violation is only apparent —at least if we assume that these fractionary nouns denote fractioning operations (rather than the results thereof) and occur in partitive (rather than attributive) constructions. These proposals can be justified independently, and extend to numeral noun constructions that did not survive into Contemporary Spanish.

Key words: definite article, presupposition of uniqueness, fractionary nouns, numeral nouns, partitive construction, attributive construction, logical types, mixed types, logical sorts, mixed sorts, sorted domains, Romance, Spanish, Catalan, Italian, French, Latin, Greek, German, Breton, English.

- 147-178 **Romero, Maribel** (University of Pennsylvania. Department of Linguistics)
Intensional Noun Phrases with *know* and *be*. *Catalan Journal of Linguistics*, 2004, vol. 3, pp. 147-178.

Following Romero (2003), this paper develops a unified analysis of two types of N(oun) P(hrase)s: concealed question NPs with *know* and NP subjects of specificational sentences with *be*. It is argued that both epistemic *know* and specificational *be* are intensional verbs requiring an intensional semantic argument. It is further argued that this semantic argument is, in both cases, propositional in nature. Crosslinguistic data on pronominalization, coordination and matching effects in free relatives are provided in support of these conclusions.

Key words: concealed question, specificational copular sentence, intensionality, connectivity, pronominalization, gender, coordination, matching effects.

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